

April 2017

The INFORMANT

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department

Inspector helps remedy quality of life issues

A unique partnership between police and a City codes inspector has improved quality of life for residents of beleaguered neighborhoods in the East Patrol Division.

For the last year, codes inspector Abraham “Abe” Lueth has been assigned to work only on issues brought to him by East Patrol officers. Working directly under 311 Action Center Director Jean Ann Lawson, Lueth can expedite requests and avoid some of the red tape with which the City’s other 48 codes inspectors must contend. He most frequently tackles issues like vacant properties without utilities, trash, junk cars and high weeds. Chief Darryl Forté has repeatedly said these problems create an environment where violent and property crimes thrive.

“It’s been great having him here,” said Sergeant Cory LeMoine, who works with Lueth at East Patrol. “He can drop everything and help us with something. I know we’ve heard from citizens that it’s helped. This is a pilot program here, and if every division had this, it could make a huge difference.”

Officers tell Lueth or Sergeant LeMoine about codes issues they’ve encountered on calls or on patrol or that residents have passed onto them. Lueth also works in areas experiencing patterns of crime. Although 311 Action Center data are used to determine where additional work is needed, Lueth does not respond to 311 reports – only police concerns. He said he triages them each morning, scheduling work around follow-up visits he already had planned. The ultimate goal, Lueth said, is owner compliance with City ordinances. Sometimes he has to drop everything to respond with police to incidents ranging from child neglect to Operation 100 stand-off situations. Sergeant LeMoine said Lueth’s ability to post houses – essentially force everyone to vacate because the residence has been deemed unlivable – has shut down drug houses and crime havens.

When searching for the right person for the East Patrol codes inspector position, 311 Director Lawson said she wanted someone who could build relationships with residents and work with them to resolve issues, rather than just handing out citations.

“We also needed someone who isn’t easily intimidated,” Lawson said.

Given his personal history, it would take a lot to intimidate Lueth. He



City Codes Inspector Abe Lueth is assigned to work out of East Patrol Division, responding only to issues brought to him by police.

is one of the “Lost Boys of Sudan.” After fleeing his war-torn homeland as a child in 1987, he lived in refugee camps and programs overseen by the United Nations in Ethiopia and Kenya. He came to the United States around age 20 with a few thousand other “lost boys” in the early 2000’s through a government refugee program. Lueth arrived with a group of about 50 other young Sudanese men in Kansas City.

“We saw computers and televisions for the first time in our lives,” Lueth said.

After his arrival, Lueth attended Penn Valley Com-

munity College and went on to earn degrees in biology and chemistry at the University of Missouri with an eye toward medical school. But after working in a couple of hospitals, he changed his mind. He wanted to serve his community, and Kansas City had become home to him. He went on to earn a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and began work as a 311 call taker. Now he feels his work as a codes inspector is really making a difference.

“It’s crazy to see how some people are living,” Lueth said. “I’d rather live under a tree than in those conditions. ... Trash piled up, toilets full of stool, horrible smells – it’s sad. It makes me appreciate what I’m doing. Imagine if they had to keep living like that. We’d find them dead.”

Lueth said he doesn’t just post houses as unlivable; he tries to connect residents with resources to help them. And on blocks where Lueth works that have experienced a lot of codes and crime issues, Lawson said the City comes in with a large presence to fix things like graffiti-covered signs, dim street lights and overgrown sidewalks.

Ultimately, Lueth said he would like to take what he’s learning back to his home country to improve conditions there. But for now, officers and residents agree he’s improving the quality of life for the people of East Patrol Division.

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Specialized agents track phones

Out of 13,000 FBI agents nationwide, only 63 have the designation of being Cellular Analysis Survey Team (CAST) -certified, and two of them are right here in Kansas City, serving on KCPD's Career Criminal Squad.

According to the FBI, the Cellular Analysis Survey Team (CAST) members have extensive training in radio frequency theory, cellular telephone networks and cellular network data. CAST members also have practical experience in geo-locating cellular telephones through call detail record analysis.

"CAST is way more than just tracking cell phones," said Sergeant Eric Greenwell, supervisor of the Career Criminal Squad. "It is a grueling two-year process of learning how to review and analyze call detail records."

The FBI's CAST program started in the mid 2000's by an FBI Agent in Philadelphia who learned to use historical call detail records to locate fugitives. He started a program called Project Pin-Point which eventually evolved into the official CAST Unit in 2012.

CAST experts bring a unique expertise to cases in which cellular telephone information plays an important evi-

dentiary role. Prosecutors have come to rely on their testimony. So when FBI Agent John Hauger - one of the earlier generations of CAST certified experts - was transferred from the Kansas City Field Office to Newark, N.J., it left a huge gap for the Kansas City metropolitan area.

FBI Agent Ryan Williams and KCPD Detective Joe Daneff - who are both assigned to the inter-agency Career Criminal Squad that is housed in KCPD - have now filled that role by becoming CAST certified. Together they have built upon what the Career Criminal Squad has been doing on its own for the last 15 years: learning how to track cell phones.

The CAST certification process is three stages and takes 18 to 24 months to complete. Existing CAST Unit members rank the performance of students in the first two courses. If they score high enough, they move onto the final 4-week stage of classes, which cover

how cell phones communicate with cell towers and field work measuring cell tower signal strength. Students then undergo an intensive week of mock court hearings, being grilled by prosecutors on the state and federal levels from around the country. If students can pass the courses and withstand scrutiny on the stand, they become CAST-certified and are eligible to testify in court as experts in call detail record analysis.

With CAST analysis and testimony demands high and growing, Detective Daneff and Agent Williams both stepped into the vacant role. Both passed all stages of the CAST certification process and became Certi-

fied. "To be able to understand the historical records makes us much better when we have to find a phone right now," Agent Williams said. "So when we get a missing person, a kidnapping or a suicidal person, that is going to take priority."

CAST members are deployed immediately nationwide along with other FBI resources to big events in America to find a break in a case, for example the 2013 Boston Marathon Bombing, San Bernardino and Orlando mass shootings and during child abductions.

"Naturally we want to take care of our own backyard, that being Kansas City," Detective Daneff said. "But we are also responsible for cases outside of Kansas City."

Agent Williams and Detective Daneff recently received awards for their work on the November 2016 Baby Sophia case out of Wichita. In that incident, Laura Abarca-Noguera was murdered, and the suspect kidnapped her newborn baby and took the child to Texas. With the help of CAST and other law enforcement resources, the suspect was apprehended, and Baby Sophia was returned to her surviving family members.

"Detective Daneff's efforts to become one of

only a few officers around our country to complete this training made a huge impact in the life of a baby in Wichita," said Major Tye Grant, Commander of the Narcotics and Vice Division. "Detective Daneff has and continues to achieve beyond expectations on a daily basis. The accomplishment to become CAST certified is only one example of his dedication to our community, to our department and to his work."

Investigators are encouraged to use Detective Daneff's and Agent Williams' expertise.

"If you need to know the general areas where a phone was during a crime, Joe and Ryan are the guys to call," Greenwell said.

Department members who need these services can contact them at

CAST@kcpd.org.



FBI Agent Ryan Williams

KCPD Detective Joe Daneff

fied CAST assets in June 2016. Very few people advance all the way through the process.

"With having only 63 CAST assets across the nation, we have two in this field office," Sergeant Greenwell said. "There are many field offices that don't have CAST availability to them, so it's a huge asset not just for the KCPD but the whole metropolitan area."

CAST-certified members are experts at telling the courts if a certain phone was in the general area of a crime and can narrow down what phones might have been in a certain area.

"We can say at a homicide scene that a suspect's phone was in the general area of a crime," Agent Williams said. "We can also often disprove alibis."

CAST experts also help find people who are in immediate peril.

"All the training that we received to un-

Celebrating half a century at KCPD

Investigator Clarence Gibson achieved 50 years with KCPD on April 24. At age 25, he joined as a Class C Patrolman at the Admiral Boulevard Station.

"To my knowledge, there's not a person on this job today that was here when I came to work," Gibson said.

He walked West Side Foot Bbeat with Patrolman Don Campbell for two years, and Patrolman Eldridge Johnson at 31st and Prospect for one year, but his favorite assignment was in Sex Crimes.

On foot beat, he felt like a part of the neighborhood, stressing the importance of communicating with the neighborhood above everything else.

He said, "You got to know people on a one-on-one basis. Officers in a car were 'the police' while we were considered 'their police.'"

He delivered a baby boy in 1969 and reconnected with that man one day prior to his 40th birthday at the mother's funeral visitation in 2009. He still attends visitations out of respect for others he knew.



"It felt really good. I wanted them to know I may have gone on with my career, but I didn't forget my roots in this career. I was treated like a long lost son," he said.

Gibson retired in 1994, along with badge #220. Before returning in 2003, he was the Mosby Police Chief, worked at Country Club Plaza Security and court security at the U.S. Marshall's Office.

He's worked under Chiefs Kelley, McNamara, Van Kirk, Caron, Joiner, Bishop, Easley, Corwin and Forté.

Off duty, Gibson attends police badge and uniform trade shows and displays some at HQ. His favorite is the solid gold badge Chief Corwin would occasionally wear from the 1920s. He created the original KCPD badge decal seen on cars and is a founding member of the Police Historical Society.

Gibson said, "As a uniformed officer, you can't beat the West Side Foot Beat. It's been a heck of a lot of fun and good memories. I wish I could stay here another 50 years."

Upcoming Events

May 8
CARE Team Golf Tournament

May 9
Board of Police Commissioners Meeting

May 16
Citizens Police Academy Graduation

May 18
Memorial Service

May 20
Chief Darryl Forté Retires

May 24
Torch Run for Missouri Special Olympics

The Informant is a
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Media Unit
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www.kcpd.org

Officially Speaking

Awards

2016 Crisis Intervention Team Award
Sergeant Sean Hess

Life-Saving Award
Officer John Lawrence
Officer Ryan Young

Certificate of Commendation
Sergeant Andrew Gore
Sergeant Jason White
Officer Matthew Brummett
Officer Jason Hennigh
Officer Nathaniel Hurley
Officer Alexander Wasser

Distinguished Service Medal
Officer Marcus Nelson
Officer Daniel Vasquez

Retirements

Major James Connolly
Sergeant Mark Hockemeier
Officer Jessica Alchin
Officer Rebecca Caster
Officer Jeffrey Lagud
Detective Randall Rund
Chief Criminalist Supervisor
David Travis II
Manager Paul Kies
Building Operations Technician
Douglas Stivers
Fleet Operations Technician
William Matthews

Obituaries

Network Administrator Kolin Gates
Retired Officer Richard Hutson
Retired Detective Robert Sanders

The mission of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department is to protect and serve with professionalism, honor and integrity.

YOU ARE INVITED

MEMORIAL
SERVICE

KANSAS CITY MISSOURI POLICE DEPARTMENT

THURSDAY
MAY
18TH 2017

10 AM
POLICE HEADQUARTERS
1125 LOCUST

To **HONOR** fallen officers in Kansas City who **GAVE** their **LIVES** in service to others.

Kansas City Missouri Police Department
1125 Locust
Kansas City, MO 64106